

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact
September 21, 2023 – Hillsboro Fire Department
Chief Jim Morse Presiding

Roll call Attendance Towns: 16 Members: 28 Guests: 0

Call to Order 1900 - Welcome by Host Chief Kenny Stafford

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

- Motion to dispense with the reading of the June minutes. Motion and second to accept the minutes as posted and distributed.
- Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report – Chief Yale

- Reviewed monthly expenditures for July and August. Vehicle repairs are over budget due to the new transmission in the car. Clerical services are up due to the computer work provided by Rick. Motion to accept as posted and distributed.
- Motion Passed

Training Committee- Dept. Newbery

- Committee meeting held 9/14/23. Loudon F/F I class updates. Discussion on individual CREF classes. Update on Instructor Mentoring. Burn days opportunity in Concord 9-22 to include chief officer communications and Mayday training. Working with Capt. Nugent on developing communications training. Proposed forest pumps in Loudon in the fall. NVFC hazmat training March 8th & 9th 2023, no cost. Discussion on seasonal training – Water Rescue awareness, ice rescue. Method for capturing lessons learned from significant events. Discussions on hosting a driver operator class in the Compact. Discussion on working with the State to hold UTV classes. Also, lessons learned from the Loudon incident - if any UTV needed to request two for support.

HazMat Report Capt. Costello

- Reviewed Team responses for the prior months -Danbury propane, 25 Hall St. Concord – unknown substance, Alexandria – consult for leaking cylinder, Alton incident, Wheelabrator trash facility – RAD incident. The team participated for three days at NHMS for the NASCAR event. Participated in full-scale exercise at Golden View in Meredith.

Fire Marshal's Report – Marshall Toomey

- Investigator staff is –full. Please consider calling if you have any fires so that they can develop some practical experience.

- Discussed the 2021 Fire and Building codes - looking at adoption with several key amendments – impacting existing daycare, places of assembly, and new 4-family residential. Maintain existing language for generator placement and address window sizing to be consistent with both codes.
- Foam take-back program – currently delayed due to transportation challenges.
- Electrical vehicles- a working group – all key players at the table working on several suggestions. Difficulty with lack of good data and misinformation from some instructors.

NHFST & EMS Report –

No representative – no report

NHIAC Report – Jim Heinz

No representative – no report

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

Normal visitor activity to the site during the summer.

Concord Hospital Report –

No representative. No report

Dispatch Report – Kevin Nugent

- New CAD system – data entry on-going. Go live date is still October 31st. Tyler reps. will be on site 24/7 for three days during that time. Chief Gilbert is working with Tyler on avoiding additional expenses not included in the original contract. Request to hold off on any run card changes until the first of next year to get the system up and running. After 10/31 there will be no web CAD. There will be an app that can be used that can give you significant data. Two dispatchers were recognized with a Unit Citation for their significant contributions during a fire incident in Hooksett.

Old Business

Plausawa Tower. Discussion on the new temporary tower at the site. The reinstallation of our tower equipment did not go well. The Cell company hired to install radio equipment led to some additional problems and delays. Equipment is now up and running – still some issues with no link to Belknap tower.

Communications Committee – The Committee has met and hired a consultant. Maps of Compact radio coverage were created. We are in good shape for mobile radio to dispatch but many poor areas for portable radio to dispatch. Examining the impact of adding equipment in four different locations including Deerfield, Pittsfield, and Weare. Also examining the use of 800 frequency vs. VHF. Discussion on pursuing a Grant for radio system upgrades/replacement. Several organizations – (North Country, SWFMA) are all looking at upgrades and the same pot of Grant money.

New Business

Capital Area compact budget presentation 2024. Dept. Chief Folsom and Capt. Nugent reviewed the Concord dispatch expenses from last year. Chief Gilbert explained how the budget is prepared and the system of expenses. The chief went through the budget line for line on a large screen for all to view. Explained the highlights including adding \$100K to the Capital budget. He then reviewed the town portion of the budget and the cost to towns. Some were higher due to town re-evaluations. Overall, the budget was up 4.1 %

Motion and second to accept the budget as presented. Roll call vote – 15 yes and 1 abstain. Motion passes.

Foam trailer updates – Working on Grant again. There is still money available for a limited quantity of foam for each town. Show of hands to see if there is still a need.

Next meeting –Location – Allenstown October 19, 2023

Motion and second to adjourn at 20:10